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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,819	07/26/2005	Mark E. Froggatt	3926-20	2728
23117	7590	07/30/2007	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC			NGUYEN, TUT	
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ARLINGTON, VA 22203			2886	
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			07/30/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/520,819	FROGGATT ET AL.
	Examiner Tu T. Nguyen	Art Unit 2886

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 9-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,13,14 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3-8,15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 January 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/07/2005.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not in a separated sheet (see abstract filed on 01/07/2005). See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1,13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure, which is not enabling. The couplers, polarization controller, detectors or the arrangement of elements in the system, which made the system to employ polarization diversity detection without using a polarizing beam splitter, are critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure. See *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976). Claims 1,13 seem to be an abstract idea.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 17, it is not clear the claim is an independent or dependent claim. In line 1, it says "the method according to claim 16". However, in line 2, claim 17 seems to be an independent claim. For examining purpose, the claim is treated as a dependent claim and it should be depended on claim 16.

Claims 18-19 are rejected as being depended on a rejected claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2,13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swanson et al (5,321,501) in view of Medford et al (6,608,717).

With respect to claims 1,13, Swanson discloses a fiber optic measurement device comprising an optical frequency domain reflectometer (OFDR) (fig 1B) without using a polarizing beam splitter.

Swanson discloses using a polarization controller 51 (fig 1A) for controlling the polarization of light. Swanson does not explicitly disclose configuring the system for employing polarization diversity detection as claimed. Since Swanson discloses controlling the polarization of the light beam. It would have been obvious a design

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choice to modify Swanson by detecting the polarization of the light as claimed to different intended uses.

With respect to claims 2,14, Swanson discloses a first coupler 22 (fig 10) for receiving a first optical signal from a device or system under test 28 (fig 10) and generating first and second coupler outputs (first output to element 184 and second output to element 42), and a second coupler 184 (fig 10) for receiving a second optical signal from a reference source 42 (fig 10) and generating third and fourth coupler outputs (first output to 52B and second output to 52A).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-12 are allowed.

As per claim 9, the prior arts of record, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious a polarization controller (PC) for changing a polarization state of the third coupler output and generating a PC output; a third coupler for receiving the first coupler output and the PC output and generating a first combined output; a fourth coupler for receiving the second coupler output and the fourth coupler output and generating a second combined output, which structurally arranged and functionally operated as in claim 9, in combination with the rest of limitations of the claim.

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Claims 3-8,15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claim 3, 15, the claims would be allowable for the same reasons as indicated in claim 9 above.

With respect to claims 17-19, the claims would be allowable if Applicant amends the claims to overcome the 112 Rejection discussed above and make claim 17 depends on claim 16.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2424. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F 7:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tarifur Chowdhury can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 86. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Tu T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2886

07/19/2007